



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

ROAD UPDATE

July 1 – July 15 • 2005 • Issue 45

Kandahar-Herat Highway

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which interlinks the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. USAID is funding 326 km of the Kandahar-Herat Highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. The Japanese have stopped heavy construction on all but 10km due to recent security and demining concerns, in which insurgents burned three pieces of the contractor’s equipment. Their security plan is now under review. The Ministry of Public Works signed a contract for the Saudi section and the contractor is mobilizing.

Along the US portion, all demining operations were recently halted due to security concerns, but construction has not been delayed, and demining efforts will resume mid-July. In **Section 3** (Km 231-356), 31% of the first layer of asphalt has been paved along with 22% of the second layer. In **Section 4** (4A Km 356-406, 4B Km 406-456), production of pre-cast pipe and bridge materials continues on 4A. Laying of crushed aggregate base (CAB) and asphalt treated base (ATB) course is underway as well as binder course paving and culvert work on 4B. To date, 49% of the first layer and 42% of the second layer of asphalt has been laid. In **Section 5** (Km 456-557), production of pre-cast pipe and bridge materials continues alongside excavation and embankment work. CAB course paving and laying of ATB course are underway. To date, 4% of the first layer of asphalt has been laid.

USAID incorporates capacity-building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase the participation and commitment of Afghans. Afghans assisting on the road effort gain valuable skills, enabling them to eventually maintain their roads. During this period, 61% of the project’s employees were Afghan nationals.



Afghans villagers observe the placement of Asphalt Treated Base on Section 4.



Production of pre-cast bridge components, Section 3.



Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections

- Japanese Section
- Saudi Section
- US Section 3
- US Section 4
- US Section 5



The managing director for Section 5 reviews paving operations.

Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow



Provincial Roads Highlights

Security continues to delay progress on several provincial road projects.

Provincial Road	Progress to date
Kabul-Gardez Road (122km)	20km of base course has been paved; asphalt wearing course paving and asphalt treated base course underway.
Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35km)	Demining and surveying are complete, earthworks are complete for 20km. Culvert work on 18km on-going. Subgrade and subbase work continuing on 14 km.
Jalalabad-Asmar Road (122km)	Demining complete on 112km. Placement of base expected to begin in July. Excavation and culvert work continues.
Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148km)	The first 60km (leaving Kandahar and headed into more remote area north) is complete. Remaining kms under DBST (Double Bitumenous Surface Treatment) paving.
Panjsher Road (69.2km)	Contract for 50km section awarded June 22; demining underway and camp mobilization began June 30. Contract for remaining 19km under negotiation.
Urban Roads	A contractor has been selected for Bibi Mahro Road, and the award will be granted pending final approval from UNOPS.
Sheberghan to Sari Pul Road (54km)	Sub-grade, embankment, and culvert work continues. 90% of aggregate production complete. Base course has been placed on 20km.
Farah-Ring Road (70km)	Demining operations suspended due to increased attacks and threats. Construction contract awarded June 1, and now in early stages of staffing and planning; designs under review. 20km is designated for local construction firms.
Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49km)	Demining operations suspended due to increased attacks and threats. Camp construction underway.
Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5km)	Camp construction, demining, and earthworks in progress; embankment work commenced.



USAID staff inspect the Panjsher Road while in the initial phases of reconstruction, noting challenges such as widening this section of the road which closely borders both the river and the mountainside.



Camp site construction for Section 2 of the Panjsher Road officially begins as these trailers will serve as the camp's offices.

Road-Related Security Incidents

On July 7 a male staff member of NGO Woman for Woman International was traveling from Kabul to the Parwan Province by car. At around 12:30 p.m. an unidentified man called the NGO office using the cell phone of the staff member, stating he had kidnapped the staff member and demanding US \$20,000 within 10 days for his release.

Indicator Hostile Attacks)	This Reporting Period	Cumulative Total FY05
Persons Kidnapped/ Released	0/0	3/2
Persons Injured/Killed	2/1	17/9
Other Hostile Attacks	1	34